AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1–19 and 29–32 without prejudice.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1–19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) A compound comprising an amino acid sequence of from 1 to about 5 amino acid residues having an N-terminal blocking group and a C-terminal Asp residue connected to an electronegative leaving group, wherein said amino acid sequence substantially corresponds to at least a portion of the sequence Ala–Tyr–Val–His–Asp, residues 112 to 116 of Seq. I.D. No. 3.

21. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 20 having the formula:

$$Z–Q_2–Asp–Q_1$$

where Z is an N-terminal protecting group,

Q_2 is [[0]] 1 to 4 amino acids such that the sequence Q_2–Asp substantially corresponds to at least a portion of the sequence Ala–Tyr–Val–His–Asp, residues 112 to 116 of Seq. I.D. No. 3; and

Q_1 is an electronegative leaving group.

22. (Original) The compound according to claim 21, wherein Z is C_1–C_6 alkyl, benzyl, acetyl, C_1–C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl or C_1–C_6 alkyl carbonyl.

23. (Original) The compound according to claim 21 wherein Z is t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl or benzyloxycarbonyl.

24. (Original) The compound according to claim 21 wherein Q_1 is an aldehyde, a diazomethyl ketone or a halomethyl ketone.

25. (Original) The compound according to claim 21 wherein Q_1 is fluoromethyl ketone.

26–27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier and a compound according to any one of claims 20–25 ~~of the formula:~~

~~$Z–Q_2–Asp–Q_1$~~

~~where Z is an N-terminal protecting group;~~

~~Q_2 is [[0]] 1 to 4 amino acids such that Q_2–Asp substantially corresponds to at least a portion of the sequence Ala–Tyr–Val–His–Asp, residues 112 to 116 of Seq. I.D. No. 3; and~~

~~Q_1 is an electronegative leaving group~~.

29–34. (Canceled).

35. (Original) A method of inhibiting IL-1β protease activity in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering to said mammal an effective inhibitory amount of a compound of the formula:

$Z–Q_2–Asp–Q_1$

where Z is an N-terminal protecting group;

Q_2 is 0 to 4 amino acids such that Q_2–Asp substantially corresponds to at least a portion of the sequence Ala–Tyr–Val–His–Asp, residues 112 to 116 of Seq. I.D. No. 3; and

Q_1 is an electronegative leaving group.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 35 wherein Z is C_1–C_6 alkyl, benzyl, acetyl, C_1–C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl or C_1–C_6 alkyl carbonyl.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 35 wherein Z is t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl or benzyloxycarbonyl.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 35 wherein Q_1 is an aldehyde, a diazomethyl ketone or a halomethyl ketone.

39–40. (Canceled).

41. (Original) The method according to claim 35 wherein Q_1 is an aldehyde and inhibiting is reversibly inhibiting.

42. (Original) The method according to claim 35 wherein Q_1 is a fluoromethyl ketone and inhibiting is irreversibly inhibiting.

43. (Currently amended) A method of treating inflammation ~~or treating an autoimmune disease~~ in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:

$$Z–Q_2–Asp–Q_1$$

where Z is an N-terminal protecting group;

Q_2 is 0 to 4 amino acids such that the sequence Q_2–Asp substantially corresponds to at least a portion of the sequence Ala–Tyr–Val–His–Asp, residues 112 to 116 of Seq. I.D. No. 3; and

Q_1 is an electronegative leaving group.

44. (Original) The method according to claim 43 wherein Z is C_1–C_6 alkyl, benzyl, acetyl, C_1–C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl or C_1–C_6 alkyl carbonyl.

45. (Original) The method according to claim 43 wherein Z is t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl or benzyloxycarbonyl.

46. (Original) The method according to claim 43 wherein Q_1 is an aldehyde, a diazomethyl ketone or a halomethyl ketone.

47–49. (Canceled).

50. (New) A method of treating arthritis in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:

$$Z–Q_2–Asp–Q_1$$

where Z is an N-terminal protecting group;

Q_2 is 0 to 4 amino acids such that the sequence Q_2–Asp substantially corresponds to at least a portion of the sequence Ala–Tyr–Val–His–Asp, residues 112 to 116 of Seq. I.D. No. 3; and

Q_1 is an electronegative leaving group.

51. (New) The method according to claim 50 wherein Z is C_1–C_6 alkyl, benzyl, acetyl, C_1–C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl or C_1–C_6 alkyl carbonyl.

52. (New) The method according to claim 50 wherein Z is t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl or benzyloxycarbonyl.

53. (New) The method according to claim 50 wherein Q_1 is an aldehyde, a diazomethyl ketone or a halomethyl ketone.